(c) by when the runway would be improved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government has approved the proposal for development of Visakhapatnam airport jointly by the Ministry of Defence, Airports Authority of India and the State Government of Andhra Pradesh at an estimated cost of Rs. 191.52 crores. Action for development work has already been initiated and is expected to be completed within three years from the date of award of work.

Strengthening of Security at Hyderabad Airport

1370. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that security at the Hyderabad International Airport is not adequate;

(b) whether it is a fact that lack of vehicles for QRT (Quick Response Team), CISF (Central Industrial Security Force) and shortage of walkie talkies etc., are some of the reasons; and

(c) if so, the measures Government propose to take to strengthen security at Hyderabad International Airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Security arrangements at all airports including Hyderabad International Airport are as per the ICAO guidelines and the National Civil Aviation Security Programme.

(b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has so far provided six vehicles as per the recommendations of the Committee consisting of representatives of AAI and CISF. AAI has also provided 15 walkie-talkies as against the requirement of 44. The remaining 29 are under procurement.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to ensure the security of all the airports including Hyderabad International Airport, *inter alia*, include:

(i) Surveillance and patrolling of the perimeter wall;

(ii) Stricter access control and through pre-embarkation security checks;

(iii) Deployment of CISF and Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs);

(iv) Screening of baggage.